Depot Town Rag

FREE 100% RAG CONTENT

SEPTEMBER 1986
EVENTS
for the good of the block
9/4 The Foundation 8 P.M.
9/18 The Association 7:30 P.M.

A PUBLICATION OF THE DEPOT TOWN ASSOCIATION, INC.

The Caboose, 400 Market Place, Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198

"We should do this again some time."
"How about in 1986 – down in Depot Town?

Ypsilanti's historic DEPOT TOWN
Where the Good Times last all year!

- The Heritage Jazz Competition — August
- The Winter Jazz Series — Jan., Feb., March
- Frog Island Blues & Jazz — June
- Victorian Holiday — Nov., Dec.
- Boomer Days — July
- Farmers' Market — Wed. & Sat. all year
- The Old Caboose — every Thursday night

EVERYBODY SING!

JULY

See the painters painting;
Here the whistle blowing;
Everybody's getting set
For our biggest show.
Festival is coming
And Depot Town is ready,
Ypsilanti, Michigan,
Here we go!

AUGUST

Down by the station
A weekend late in August
See historic buildings
All in a row!
See the flocks of tourists
Stream across the Huron
Watch out! Get Set!
Here they come!

SEPTEMBER

Now the hoopla's past us;
Things are back to normal;
We have swept the sidewalks
Just in time to start again.
Lots of folks have 'found us;'
We hope they had a good time.
Puff-Puff, Toot-toot
Down in Depot Town!

ON THE RIGHT TRACK!

Just look at all the changes in Ypsilanti's old railroad district these last few years! When the Michigan ARTRAIN pulled into this siding in 1971 it saw a fallen-down-at-the-sidewalks commercial district which still felt the loss of nationwide rail travel since World War II. When the ARTRAIN returned in 1981 it saw a rehabilitated block celebrating its rebirth. Now, in its third visit to Ypsilanti's historic Depot Town, the community may be taking for granted all the effort that went into bringing the area back to economic viability. The whole community celebrates its success!

"The only person interested in what your grandmother used to have – was your grandfather!"
– Depot Town, the attic of the mid-west

Depot Town
AUCTION GALLERY
33 East Cross Street
Ypsilanti, MI 48198
Antiques
Buy, Sell, Trade, Auction
482-7500 Open Wed. Thru Sun. 11-5

DEPOT EXCHANGE ANTIQUES
54 East Cross Street
Professional Furniture Stripping & Refinishing
10% off to RAG Readers
WE BUY AND SELL ANTIQUES

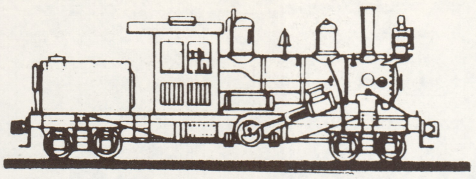
Jim MacDonald's
Antiques
Apple Annie's
Vintage Clothing
29 East Cross • 481-0555
Tuesday-Saturday 12-6 Sunday 12-4

THOMPSON BUILDING MALL
412 N. River
over 4000 square feet featuring several dealers
furniture stripping
refinishing & reapir
brass & metal polishing
mirror resilvering
all types glass repair
including stained glass & beveling
PICK UP & DELIVERY AVAILABLE
12-6 daily
484-4288

Specializing in Unusual & Different Costume Jewelry

VINTAGE PASSION
Antiques - Collectables - Art Deco
Vintage Clothing and Accessories
Tuesday - Saturday: 11:00 to 6:00
Sunday: Noon to 5:00
32 E. Cross St.
Historic Depot Town
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198
Owner
Linda J. Williams

Now recycling newspapers, glass, metal cans, and oil
YPSILANTI RECYCLING PROJECT
SITE HOURS: 9-3 P.M. Sat.
For more information
STOP BY OR CALL
(office phone) 487-9727
Located behind 32 E. Cross Street



RAIL EXCURSIONS:

Yes, you can still ride the trains. Check this list and write or call the sponsoring organizations.

MOTOR CAR SHUTTLE
Clinton-Tecumseh
Saturdays hourly, 11 A.M. - 4: P.M.
Sundays hourly, 1 - 4 P.M.
$3 adults, $1.50 students age 5 - 18
SOUTHERN MICHIGAN RAILROAD
P.O. Box 434, Clinton, MI 49236
Divison Street, Clinton, MI

THE MARSHALL SPECIAL
to the 23rd Annual Marshall Historic Home Tour
Detroit-Dearborn-Ann Arbor-Marshall
Saturday, September 6
$43 adult, $40 children
Bluewater Chapter

WABASH CANNONBALL
Detroit - St. Louis
Friday, September 5th - Sunday, Sept.
Friday, Sept. 5th - Sunday, Sept. 7th
BLUEWATER CHAPTER

ANNIE PASSENGER EXTRA
Ann Arbor - Toledo
Saturday, October 4th
THE BLUEWATER MICHIGAN CHAPTER
of the National Railway Historical Society
P.O. Box 296, Royal Oak, MI 48068
Phone 264-4418 or 399-7963 or 499-3466

DINNER IN THE DINER
Thursday, October 16
Guided tour of Bluewater's yard at Pontiac
Detroit Historical Society
5401 Woodward Avenue, Detroit, MI 48202
(313) 833-7934

Yes! MICHIGAN 150 TRAIN
"The Bluewater Chapter has ambitious plans for excursions in 1987 to help celebrate Michigan's Statehood Sesquicentennial," says president, David L. White. The dark cloud is the inavailability of sufficient liability insurance. This year, 1986, could be the last for train excursions for a while, so we encourage you to ride with us in 1986 if you can."

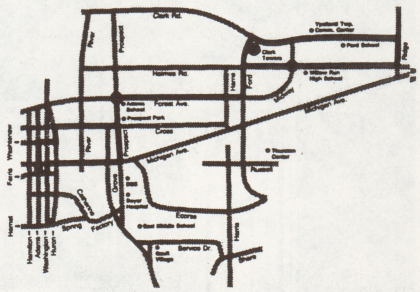
Ted's AUTO ELECTRIC
307 N. River St. Ypsilanti, MI
Phone: 483-1238

AATA DISCOVERS DEPOT TOWN

You can catch the bus right in Depot Town, now.

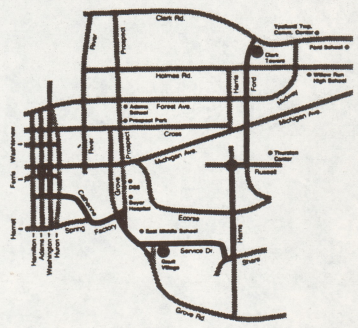
The #19FOREST-RIDGE bus leaves downtown Ypsilanti every half-hour from 6:45 A.M. until 5:45 P.M. and trundles right through your favorite neighborhood; thence to Prospect Park, Sunrise Shopping Center, Clark East Towers, Ypsilanti Township Community Center and Willow Run High School. It returns to Downtown via Prospect Street and Michigan Avenue.

19 Forest-Ridge



And you can wait at Clark East Towers to make connections with the #20 GAULT-FORD bus which hits Harris and Ford Roads; then follows the south side route back to the Downtown stop.

20 Gault-Ford



Don't be put-off by the Ann Arbor Transit Authority's name. Your tax dollars help to subsidize it, too. Think of it as the DTC (Depot Town Connection) if it helps you make necessary the contact with the rest of the world

Richard C. Laflin
bd
310 N. River
Ypsilanti, MI 48198
487-1510
B & D RETAIL PLUMBING and HEATING, INC.

NOTHING STAYS THE SAME

An Up-date For Festival Goers Who Haven't Been To Depot Town Since Last Year's Festival

Ypsilanti's old Depot Town keeps getting newer every year, and if you're one of the Annual Visitors, this issue's one long paragraph summing up one short year should bring you right up to date.

Conrail rebuilt the crossing at Cross and River Streets, then dropped off new track for the mainline and replaced ties under the siding. Depot Exchange rebuilt their back wall, replaced all the windows and put up the first wall/billboard in years. The Ypsi Food Coop celebrated their eleventh anniversary. The Health Emporium changed its name to The Vitamin Shoppe and moved down the street. Doug Dalton opened the Depot Town Auction House. The Association published a neighborhood directory. We changed our ZIP Code to 48198. Richies knocked down the old tin garage behind the Ice Cream Parlor and built a new porch and stairway. Our Lady's Madrigal Singers kicked off the Victorian Holiday with a concert at Aubree's Second Floor. George Cantor attacked us again, this time in AAA's *Michigan Living*. Many buildings lost their insurance and found new companies. DTA's liability insurance went sky high and prices for everything rose to meet them. Vintage Passion's Linda Williams represented the district in high fashion dress-up events in person and in the press. Jim McDonald and Apple Annie moved out so McKeevers could repair their crumbling wall. The City installed a new curb from Cross Street to the Farmers' Market. Several video documentaries were made in the neighborhood. The Winter Jazz Series at the Freight House featured the Lunar Glee Club, the J.C. Heard Orchestra, the Reed/Anderson Trio, Kenn Cox and the Guerilla Jam Band, the Progressive Blues Band with Juanita McCray, Russell Green and Jerry Neely, Tom Sauders and the Surfside Six, and Amigo. Lots of people used the Old Caboose for private parties. Van Mertz and friends put a new roof and steps on the Old Caboose. Several hundred kids showed up for the Halloween party and the EMU theatre for the young presented Japanese folk tales. And Everything Nice went out of business and The Crickett Box opened up in that space. The indoor winter Farmers' Market opened every Saturday and expanded their offerings. Seven businesses were recognized for their excellent Victorian Christmas display windows and fifteen others were given honorable mentions. The billboard advertising campaign ended and some folks still owe for their share. The gnarly tree fell over and DPW cleaned it up. Santa made a special appearance in the Old Caboose. Farmers' Market events expanded into food demonstrations and events for children. Ford Motor Company held bi-weekly training sessions at Aubree's. Merchants kept their sidewalks shoveled all winter long. Five building owners applied for - recieved - help from the City's Facade Incentive Grant program. People started planning the Heritage Festival and more events than ever before were planned for the area. T.H.E. Market opened up where The Health Emporium had been. Old Town Coin and Gold bought City body's service station. The Depot Doo Hair Design opened where Jacqueline's Boutique had been. The north alley was finally straightened out. The Ypsilanti Recycling Center won thousands of dollars in grants and expanded their services. ACE Body Parts opened in the Thompson Building. Sun-X disappeared after painting their sign. DTA joined the Chamber of Commerce and the Chamber joined DTA. Professor Malarkey represented the block at the Michigan Tourism Conference. Ann Arbor's Ark Coffeehouse shared facilities with DTA for June's Frog Island Festivals. Frog Island Blues & Jazz featured Mr. B, Christopher James, EMX., J.C. Heard's Detroit All Stars, The Air Trio, the Trinidad Tripolo Steel Band and the Chicago Blues Review. DTA and WEMU continued scratching each other's back. The Thompson Block made headlines over the owner's conflicts with the City on repairs to the building. River Art Works celebrated their eighth year. The Sidetrack replaced their east-facing windows and painted their wall to match Depot Exchange.

And the Depot town Rag came out on the first Saturday of each month with an opinion on all of it. That opinion, basically, was that a sense of community has returned to Depot Town and that's just the way it should be.

J.C. HEARD ORCHESTRA

Saturday, September 20

in the Freight House

A fund-raiser for Senator Lana Pollack

BOOMER DONORS THANKED

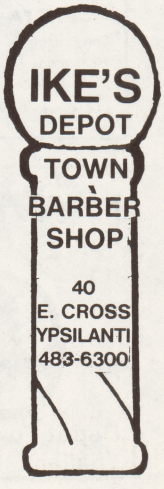
Bonni Rosen-Fine sends special thanks to her friends and neighbors for their generous donations of prizes, time and energy for July's successful Boomer Days weekend.

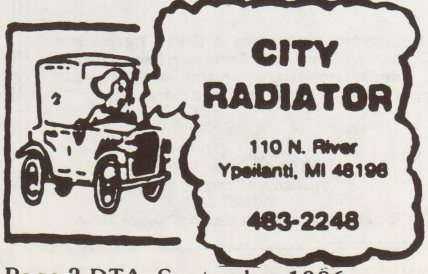
Aubrees' Saloon
Big Bob's Magazines
The Cricket Box
Depot Doo
Depot Exchange
Depot Town Auction Gallery
T.H.E. Market
Miller's Ice Cream Parlor
Our Little Secret
Paponetti's Pasta
Pronto Pizza and Subs
River Art Works
Vintage Passion
The Vitamin Shoppe
Hon's Flowers

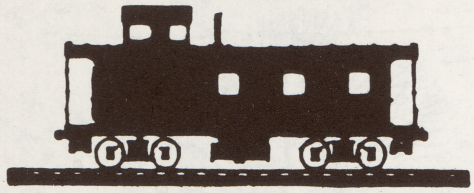
and to . . .

Sharon Van Ryte
Jerry Meadows
Judy Andrews
Dave Gauntlett
Jeff White
Steve Brundage

Special thanks to Bonni, also, for her able leadership in this unique neighborhood event.







D.T.A. 17 JULY 1986

Called to order at 7:30 P.M. beside the Old Caboose in 98 degree weather. A new agenda format was tried out.

Bill Lister of The Depot Doo attended his first meeting.

The June minutes were read and approved.

TREASURY:

Balance	$17017.45
General	4834.71
Rag	135.30
Jazz	12508.43
Special	470.99
Caboose	-0-
Halloween	34.78
Billboard	707.24
Boomer Days	201.47

CORRESPONDENCE: Department of Commerce program on establishing business incubators' July 30, 31 in Kalamazoo.

STANDING COMMITTEES:

PROGRAM — No report.

HOUSE — No report.

PUBLIC RELATIONS — Rag published early for August, September Rag will be out last day of Heritage Festival.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE dues-paid until January. Reimburse Dodd $93.75.

GENERIC BANNER — proposed to say "WEMU-Depot Town JAZZ," approximately 4" x 24' w/grommets. Approved $650 maximum, seek split later with WEMU-passed.

DISTRICT DIRECTORY is being printed, 10,000 for $445.00 paid from DTA-general fund and will be ready for Heritage Festival.

BUDGETS & EVENTS

FROG ISLAND FESTIVAL saw 2100 paid admissions. Ark's concert was not profitable. DTA will pay the tent cost, ask Ark to pay only extra porta-john pump-out. Concessions did well. Need final statement from one concessionaire. Wrap-up meeting is 7 P.M. Monday, July 21 at McKeever's.

HERITAGE COMPETITION audition tapes are in hand and being reviewed. Volunteers for August 22, 23, 24 are always needed. New Festival policy permits splitting profits after expenses.

BOOMER DAYS made a $1.25 profit. DTA will contribute $25 to the Carp for Kids event. Many thanks to all the participating merchants and volunteers. Press coverage of the 'dog days' event was spectacular.

OTHER REPORTS:

HYDROPLANE RACES saw a DTA committee helping with set-up.

OLD BUSINESS:

Motion made and withdrawn to pay outstanding BILLBOARD FEES of $707.24

NEW BUSINESS:

PLAYER PIANO donated to Freight House needs repair, investigate and estimate for August meeting.

BEST YET AWARD:

To BILL LISTER, new merchant from Depot Doo, for chairing the Boomer Boutique.

To JERRY MEADOWS whose committee helped set up the Hydroplane event during Boomer Days.

GOLDEN GOOSE AWARD:

To MICHELE ELIZABETH HARRY for her participation in the Frog Island Jazz Festival.

ADJOURNED at 8:42 P.M.

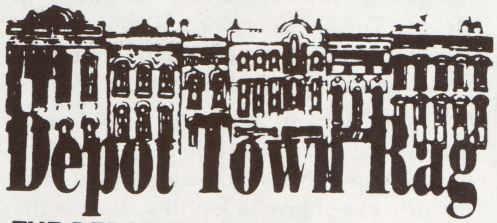
STILL MORE TO DO!

The Depot Town turn-around is far from complete. You can still help achieve the goals of your community by joining the continuous efforts of the district's three levels of effort:

1. THE DEPOT TOWN ASSOCIATION, a non-profit tax-exempt corporation of volunteers dedicated to preserving the unique character of the neighborhood and to the enhancement of its business climate. It publishes the Depot Town Rag monthly.

2. THE HISTORIC DEPOT TOWN FOUNDATION develops long range planning, finances and problem solving for property owners.

3. THE DEPOT TOWN DEVELOPMENT AUTHORITY is appointed by the Mayor to promote and encourage economic development within the district.



THE DEPOT TOWN RAG:
A publication of the Depot Town Association, Inc., a nonprofit, tax-exempt corporation dedicated to preserving the unique character of the neighborhood and to the enhancement of its business climate.
The Depot Town Association, Inc.
Gary McKeever, President
The Caboose, 400 Market Place
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198

KIND OF AN EDITORIAL POLICY

for the Depot Town Rag:

PAGE ONE — Front page news that the 'real' papers won't print. Intensely,local and loyal. Our 'front door' for many who visit the block for the first time.

PAGE TWO — 'Inside stuff,: business items for the good of the block. Messages to ourselves.

PAGE THREE — Whatever else won't fit.

PAGE FOUR — D.T.A. minutes, Masthead, other Association business.

PAGE FIVE — Neighborhood feature items for fun and fact.

PAGE SIX — 'Ragtime' extra copy and items of information with our sponsors 'ads.' Copy for specials and announcements may be updated monthly If everyone does it, we'll gladly spread over on to other pages!

ADVERTISING: Only from Depot Town enterprises. They aren't really advertisers, but 'sponsors' of this monthly Rag.

LETTERS: We'll print anything that is signed and of general interest to our readership.

POETRY: Sometimes even worse than those printed in The Ypsilanti Press.

FORM: Hyphens, quotes and alliterative phrases are encouraged. Optimistism and cre—activity reign.

Quarterly Meeting &

D.T.A. ANNUAL ELECTION MEETING

Thursday, September 18, 1986,

in the Farmers' Market
Coffee Shop

for the offices of President, Vice President, Secretary and Treasurer. The new president will then appoint chairs to standing committees: Program, House, Public Relations, Budget & Events. Make your interest known and join the action. Don't let last year's officers have all the fun!

Hansen's
STANDARD PRINTING
"Historic Depot Town"
483-0339

PANTHER APPEARANCE POSTPONED

Even though the popular Manchester Panther could have passed through this end of Washtenaw County on its way to Wixom and/or Milford two years ago, Depot Town public relations experts deny that any move is being made for its return to Ypsilanti's old railroad yard. Even though this quarter of the Historic District has been known to exploit trolls, hoboes and frogs, the panther is not expected to surface here.

"There is plenty of suspense and drama on the block just waiting for the old MCRR depot to fall down,"said DTA president Gary McKeever. "We just don't think we need a panther, too!" he concluded.

TO HONOR THY CUSTOMER

(Working Together, October 28, 1985, The Dartnell Corporation)

The following Commandments of Good Business have been around for a very long time. . .but they are just as valid today as they were when first posted.

CUSTOMERS are not interruptions of our work; they are the purpose of our work.

CUSTOMERS do us a favor when they call. We don't do them one by serving them.

CUSTOMERS are not ones to argue or match wits with.

CUSTOMERS deserve the most courteous and attentive treatment we can give them

CUSTOMERS are human beings, like ourselves, with the same feelings and emotions.

CUSTOMERS are the lifeblood of this and every other business, the people who make it possible to pay our salaries, whether we are truck drivers or managers.

DEPOT DOO

"fine design in hair style"
In Historic Depot Town

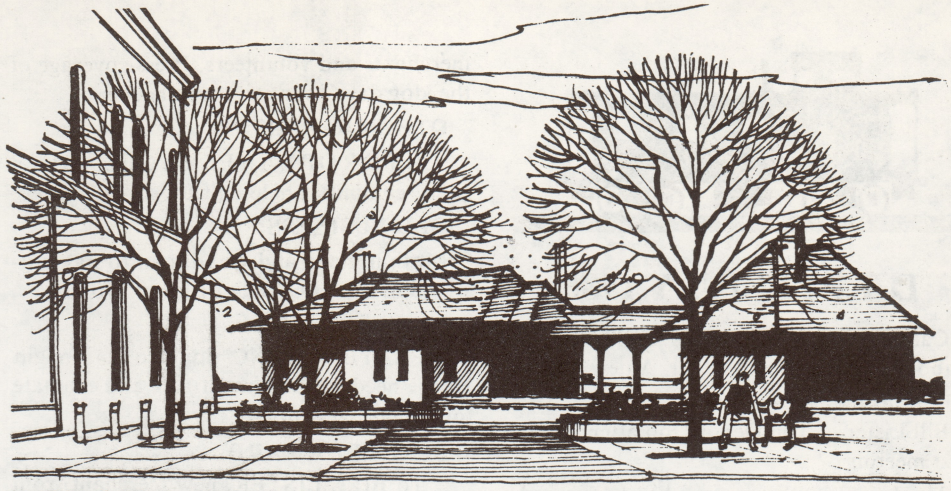
25 East Cross Street • 313/484-3045
Ypsilanti, Michigan

BIG BOB'S MAGAZINES

Magazines
Comics
Celebrity Posters

WE SPECIAL ORDER FOR YOU!

HOURS: MON-WED & SAT 11AM-6PM
FRI 11AM-7PM • SUN 12N-4PM
CLOSED THURSDAY
50 E. Cross
Ypsilanti
In Depot Town 485-4930



DEPOT DOO DAH

The best thing anyone on the block can say about the decayed and decrepit Michigan Central Railroad Depot Which is the focus and name of this neighborhood is, at best, a bad pun: The building is 'terminally ill.'

Still, it's the best we've got, but it becomes enbarrassing and tedious to have to explain to our annual visitors that, "No, it's not about to be turned into a fancy-schmancy restaurant, "or "Yes, it certainly would be nice if we could save it by transforming it into a glitzy teddy bear mall," but the awful truth is that Amtrak wants so much for so little that it is just not worth anyone's effort to save the historic structure. Recent entrepreneurs' hopes have again fizzled over that project and the building continues to moulder and scowl at the rest of the block.

When we sat at a picnic in Plymouth's 'Gathering.' we thought what a wonderful structure that would be in place of Ypsilanti's depot – just a depot-shaped roof suspended on tall brick posts. With no doors, windows or walls, Plymouth's structure sits across from the Town Square, between the Penn Theatre and the Masonic Temple. It's very New Englandy, of course, and suggests the Mayflower must have docked at it's edge.

Ours could still look like a depot at first glance and could even boast a tall clock tower. It could shelter concerts, family reunions, art shows, picnics, antique auto shows and (if anyone ever needed such a thing) passengers waiting for a train.

A wrought iron fence along the track side would guide traffic to the corner for safety's sake and — what the heck? It's just another silly dream!

ALMOST A 'SLICKER'

New Printing Technology at Hansen's

In journalistic parlance, a publication written by non-professionals is called a 'rag,' but new developments at Hansen's Standard Printing could lead our readers to believe that we may soon have to change our name. As the world of high technology invades every business in Depot Town, this second generation business, too, sees new gadgets which are revolutionizing their industry.

If you thought some of this issue's Roman type was slightly different from previous monthlies, you were right. And the process of producing this issue is the biggest change of all. The Hansen family's newest piece of equipment is the 'Varityper (Comp/Edit 6400 CRT)'. Which set the type for some of the articles in the September issue. Doris Hansen has had an interesting month trying to figure it out. In fact, what started out to be a two-day-a-week job has turned in to a full-time proposition as the typesetting end of the family printing business continues to grow.

Doris has spent countless hours sitting in front of what looks like a flight simulator for a 747 jet with a sideways television screen in front of her - just trying to get the September issue of The Depot Town Rag ready to hand out on the last day of Heritage Festival. She's such an optimist, that she says the early deadline is just the kind of practice she needs to master the new toy put at her disposal.

The new process can eventually set the whole page into columns of an infinite variety of typefaces and Doris won't even have to run the copy to cousin Loren in the basement darkroom, since the machine does it all.

We know of few neighborhood newsletters which can boast the slick expertise and high quality printing we enjoy from our neighbors at Standard Printing, and Depot Town truly appreciates their monthly attention to this effort. Regular readers, however, can count on us not getting too 'professional.' As long as all the copy is generated by our loyal and regular volunteers on the block, we'll still qualify for our name and definition. If we get too slick, let us know.

Dear Depot Town Restauranteurs:

We thank you for the coupon books you presented us on arrival in Ypsilanti. We have never been fed better! We always enjoy our stop in the Ypsi yards, and this year's was the best of all, thanks to your hospitality.

-The staff of the Michigan ARTRAIN

(ed. See below. They have never looked better! All five of our food-folk graciously welcomed the Artrain staff.)

PRONTO
PIZZA & SUBS
37 E. CROSS • DEPOT TOWN
YPSILANTI
483-4555
SUN-THUR 4-12 FRI & SAT 4-2
Free Delivery
on orders over $4.00

Old Town
RESTAURANT

Home Cooked
Breakfast • Lunch • Dinner
Historic Depot Town

SIDETRACK
GOOD FOOD GOOD DRINKS GOOD TIMES
Located in historic Depot Town
56 E. Cross, Ypsilanti
483-1035

THERE'S A NEW
ITALIAN
IN DEPOT TOWN
PAPONETTI'S PASTA
Specializing in Homemade Italian Food & Pastries
YOUR HOUSE OR OURS (WE CATER, TOO)
17 E. Cross • Depot Town **483-3574**

Audrey's

Depot Town
Ypsilanti, Michigan

RAGTIME
KEEPING ON TRACK DOWN IN DEPOT TOWN

Ypsilanti's Farmers' Market
in historic Depot Town

ON EXHIBIT
"Citizens of a Metropolis"
by SEMCOG

SATURDAY EVENTS
9/6 – "Home Canning" Co-op Ext.
Master Canners, free pressure test.
9/13– "Back to School Lunches"
Food Co-op demo, 10-1
9/22–"Drying Herbs"
sales & live demo at 10 & 12
9/27–"Kidscrafts" scrapcrafts
projects for kids, 9-2

Miller's
ICE CREAM
42 E. Cross Ypsilanti, Michigan
485-7548
WEEKLY SPECIALS
Come in and enjoy your first cone of the season ! ! !
Always a Double Dip Special for 75¢

D.T.A. Annual Election & Quarterly Meeting
Thursday, 7:30 P.M., September 18
in the Farmers' Market Coffee House

FREEBIE:

Sponsors (not really advertisers) of THE DEPOT TOWN RAG may wish to take advantage of the opportunity to print more copy with their monthly logo. Your readers enjoy specials, announcements, news, etc. Just stick it in the Old Caboose mail slot by the third Thursday of the month. And theres' no extra cost. What a deal!

A COMPLETE LINE OF PREMIUM VITAMINS, HERBS & NUTRITIONAL SUPPLEMENTS
the VITAMIN SHOPPE
9 E. Cross • Ypsilanti, MI 48198 • 313/485-2711

483-3637
Our Little Secret
Resale Clothing & Other Niceties
23 E. Cross Street
Ypsilanti, MI 48198
In Historic Depot Town

THE GRAND TRUNK, LTD.
CARDS & GIFTS
CALIFORNIA DREAMERS
ROCKSHOTS
COLONIAL CANDLES
SUZYS ZOO
WINDSOCKS
STATIONERY
IMPRINTING
GIFT WRAP
MAIL RECEIVING
ARTIST CONSIGNMENTS
15 E. CROSS
YPSILANTI, MI 485-4994
HOURS - 10 A.M. - 5 P.M.
IN HISTORIC DEPOT TOWN

The Cricket Box
a specialty gift & card shop
.... featuring Sunrise & Green Tiger Press cards, Gwen Frostic Stationary, Dakin animals, dolls, stoneware, crystal, antiques, Bill Coleman photography, and more ....
27 East Cross Street
Ypsilanti, Michigan 48198
(313)487-5595
located in Ypsilanti's historic "Depot Town"